



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart
Southern District of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2006
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ohs>

CONTACT: Fred Alverson
614-469-5715

FORMER BANK EXEC SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT, TAX FRAUD

CINCINNATI -- Samuel Anthony Scherch, age 39, of Cincinnati was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 48 months imprisonment. Scherch was also ordered to pay \$1,456,595.21 in restitution to Fifth Third Bank where he was employed as an Assistant Vice President for Private Banking, and restitution of \$572,525.24 to the Internal Revenue Service.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Stanley J. Borgia, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Field Division; and Cromwell A. Handy, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, announced the plea entered today before United States District Judge Michael H. Watson.

Scherch pled guilty on February 1, 2006 to one count of bank embezzlement. He also pled guilty to one count of filing a false income tax return.

According to a statement of facts filed with the plea, Scherch created 15 fictitious loans between December 2000 and November 2004. He opened corresponding checking accounts for each loan, from which interest payments on the loans were automatically deducted. For some of the loans, Scherch had monthly statements and other bank correspondence mailed to him in an effort to avoid detection.

Scherch also reported his income as \$105,326 for 2004 when, because of the money he embezzled, his total income was \$1,146,652.

Scherch remains free on bond until he reports to the Bureau of Prisons at a date to be determined after January 1, 2007.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by the agents of the FBI and IRS Criminal Investigation, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Springer who prosecuted the case.

#